

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 OMB-01 TRSE-00 HA-05 CIAE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
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INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SW, PL
SUBJ: SWEDISH PRIME MINISTER TO VISIT POLAND

1. SWEDISH PRIME MINISTER, THORBJORN FALLDIN, EMBARDS TODAY (APRIL 12) ON AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO POLAND. ACCOMPANYING FALLDIN IS DIRECTOR OF INDUSTRY NILS ASLING ALONG WITH A LARGE DELEGATION OF SWEDISH JOURNALISTS. ASLING WILL BE DISCUSSING POSSIBILITIES FOR EXPANDING ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION WHILE FALLDIN IS EXPECTED TO PUT HIS SIGNATURE ON A NEW FIVE-YEAR TRADE AGREEMENT.

2. THE SINGLE MOST THORNY ISSUE IN SWEDISH-POLISH RELATIONS, ALREADY ATTRACTING A MODICUM OF STOCKHOLM PRESS ATTENTION, INVOLVES GOP TREATMENT OF SWEDISH CITIZENS OF POLISH-JEWISH DESCENT. SOME 300 POLISH JEWS EMIGRATED TO SWEDEN DURING 1968-69 ANTI-SEMITIC WAVE IN POLAND, MOST OF WHOM ARE NOW SWEDISH CITIZENS. DESPITE A TREATY ABOLISHING VISA REQUIREMENTS, POLISH AUTHORITIES HAVE BEEN ROUTINELY TURNING BACK
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MANY SWEDISH JEWS AT THE BORDER. FM KARIN SODER FIRST RAISED THIS ISSUE WITH HER POLISH COUNTERPART DURING FM WOJTASEK'S VISIT TO SWEDEN LAST JUNE. WOJTASEK RETORTED THAT THOSE NOT ADMITTED TO POLAND ARE "CRIMINALS". DURING LAST MONTH'S FOREIGN POLICY DEBATE IN THE RIKSDAG, MRS. SODER REGRETTE THE LACK OF PROGRESS ON THE ISSUE. SWEDISH DELEGATES AT THE BELGRADE CSCE REVIEW ALSO OPENLY CRITICIZED POLAND'S TOUGH ATTITUDE.

PM FALLDIN NOW INTENDS TO TAKE THE ISSUE DIRECTLY TO GIEREK.

3. COMMENT: THE FACT THAT PM FALLDIN HAS CHOSEN POLAND FOR HIS FIRST VISIT OUT OF THE NORDIC AREA IS TESTIMONY TO THE GENERALLY GOOD STATE OF POLISH-SWEDISH RELATIONS. NONETHELESS, POLISH LACK OF GIVE ON AN ISSUE WHICH SWEDES INTERPRET AS CREATING FIRST-CLASS AND SECOND-CLASS SWEDISH CITIZENSHIP REMAINS A MAJOR IRRITANT. FALLDIN IS UNDER SOME PRESSURE TO ABROGATE THE NO-VISA TREATY IF THE POLES DO NOT EASE UP. ON THE EVE OF FALLDIN'S DEPARTURE, WITH TV NEWS CAMERAS ROLLING, POLISH OFFICIALS IN STOCKHOLM YESTERDAY TURNED AWAY THIRTEEN NEW APPLICANTS, OPENLY STATING THAT THEY WERE "NOT WELCOME" IN POLAND.

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